

# CENTRE FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND CENTRE FOR HEALTH POLICY

PHD Completion Seminar

The University of Melbourne



MELBOURNE SCHOOL OF  
POPULATION  
& GLOBAL  
HEALTH



## The relationship between mental health problems and gambling harm

**Presenter: Lachlan Cameron**

**Supervisors:**

**Dr Jemimah Ride, Prof. Jane Pirkis  
and  
Prof. Nancy Devlin**

**Tuesday 3 October 2023**

**9.30am - 10.30am**

**Seminar Room 516, Level 5, 207 Bouverie Street,  
Carlton  
and  
Via Zoom**

**[https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83163255445?  
pwd=Nk5JZ3lCUkgxSUJRUEdPZlBkOGJkZz09](https://unimelb.zoom.us/j/83163255445?pwd=Nk5JZ3lCUkgxSUJRUEdPZlBkOGJkZz09)**

**Password: 444847**

Mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety, and gambling harm are two common sources of social disadvantage. People with depression and anxiety have higher rates of gambling harm. However, the causal effects of this relationship, and the underlying mechanisms by which this occurs, are poorly understood. Better understanding this relationship provides important evidence for whether gambling may create social disadvantage, or exacerbate existing disadvantage for people with mental health problems.

This PhD aims to improve understanding of the relationship between mental health problems and gambling harm through theoretical, experimental, and econometric methods. It consists of three research projects: (i) the development of an economic model of gambling behaviour, (ii) a discrete choice experiment analysing people's gambling behaviour when gambling online on horse racing, and (iii) spatial analysis of the association between accessibility to pokies venues and suicide. The research in this PhD has important implications for informing policy to reduce the risk of gambling harm for people with depression and anxiety, and the influence of gambling on mental health problems.

Lachlan Cameron is a PhD candidate in the Health Economics Unit at the Centre for Health Policy, and the Centre for Mental Health, in the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

He is interested in the economics of mental health, and wants to conduct research that helps to reduce social disadvantage for people with mental health problems. He is interested both in whether mental health problems influence people's behaviour in ways that puts them at greater risk of harms, as well as social and commercial determinants of mental health.

He holds a Bachelor of Commerce with Honours in Economics from the University of Melbourne.

These seminars are free. Visitors are welcome to attend.  
For more information contact the Centre for Mental Health +61 3 8344 0908